

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01796 260711Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /055 W  
-----261226Z 122748 /23-12  
R 260527Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3249

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1796

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ET, XA, PINS, ASEC  
SUBJ: MENGISTU CONVOKES AFRICAN DIPLOMATS

1. CHAIRMAN OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE,  
LT. COL. MENGISTU, CONVOKED ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN DIPLOMATS  
LESS EQYPTIANS, SUDANESE AND SOMALIS MORNING MARCH 25.  
ACCORDING KENYAN CHARGE, HE INTENDED CONVOKE FRANCO-  
PHONES AFTERNOON MARCH 25. MORNING MEETING LASTED ABOUT TWO HOURS.

2. ACCORDING KENYAN, MENGISTU GAVE THEM HISTORICAL LECTURE  
GOING BACK TO EMPEROR'S TIME (IT APPEARS USG AND UK WERE  
INSTRUMENTAL IN PUTTING HAILE SELASSIE ON THRONE, TIME NOT  
SPECIFIED), THEN THROUGH BEGINNINGS OF REVOLUTION AND NEED  
FOR ARMY TO ASSUME POWER, AND FINALLY UP TO DATE. HE THEN  
ADDRESSED SITUATIONS IN ERITREA, DJIBOUTI AND OGADEN, WITHOUT  
APPARENTLY ADDING ANY NEW INFO. HE POINTED FINGER  
STRONGLY AT ARABS, PARTICULARLY SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA,  
EGYPT AND IRAQ, WHILE COMMENTING ON ERITREA, DJIBOUTI  
AND RED SEA. HE ALSO MADE PLAIN THAT SOMALIA WAS  
BEHIND TROUBLE IN OGADEN AND BALE PROVINCE. HE  
REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT SUDAN AND EGYPT WERE PREPARED  
TAKE OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST ETHIOPIA ALTHOUGH HE ALSO  
APPARETNLY DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HAPPEN. HE ALSO  
THOUGHT SAUDI ARABIA WAS MAKING EFFORT TO BECOME  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 01796 260711Z

DOMINANT IN DJIBOUTI AND AS FIRST STEP AFTER INDEPENDENCE  
WOULD SEE TO IT THAT DJIBOUTI BECAME MEMBER OF ARAB  
LEAGUE. FRENCH APPARENTLY CAME IN FOR CRITICISM THAT  
THEY WERE NOT REALLY PREPARED ABANDON COLONIAL POSTURE.

3. HE THEN TOLD GROUP THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD BE SENDING  
EMISSARIES TO AFRICAN CAPITALS TO EXPALIN EPMG'S

POINTS OF VIEW (APPARENTLY REAL PURPOSE OF MEETING),  
BUT WANTED CHIEFS OF MISSION KNOW ABOUT IT IN ADVANCE.

4. AFRICANS THEN WEIGHED IN ON CURRENT SECURITY  
SITUATION IN ADDIS. PREFACING THEIR REMARKS BY SAYING  
THAT COURSE OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS NOT THEIR  
CONCERN, AND THEY HAD NO WISH INTERFERE IN INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS OF ETHIOPIA, THEY THEN POINTED OUT THAT ADDIS  
SECURITY SITUATION WAS MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO  
CONDUCT NORMAL DIPLOMACY. THEY SPOKE OF HOUSE SEARCHES,  
CAR AND BODY SEARCHES, INDISCRIMINATE FIRING  
THAT HAS HIT ZAIRIAN, SIERRA LEONE AND ZAMBIAN (AMB)  
HOMES, INDIGNITIES AT ROAD BLOCKS AND INABILITY TO KNOW  
WHO IS WHO. THEY ASKED THAT REBELS BE GIVEN SPECIFIC  
INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING ALL DIPLOMATS, THAT ROADBLOCK  
GUARDS WEAR DISTINCTIVE UNIFORMS, THAT ROADBLOCKS BE  
ILLUMINATED, AND THAT GUARDS BE INSTRUCTED TO BE POLITE.  
THEY ALSO ASKED FOR CREATION OF KIND OF EMERGENCY  
UNIT THAT COULD RESPOND TO NIGHTTIME SITUATIONS INVOLVING  
INDIVIDUAL DIPLOMATS, HOMES OR CHANCERIES, WHETHER  
EMERGENCY, MEDICAL OR OTHER. MENGITU REPORTEDLY SAID  
HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO, BUT REMINDED THEM THAT  
EPMG WAS IN PROCESS OF ATTEMPTING ELIMINATE ITS ENEMIES.

5. COMMENT: WHILE MENGITU'S REPLY ON SECURITY PROBLEM  
WAS NOT OVERLY ENCOURAGING, AFRICANS CERTAINLY GOT  
MESSAGE HOME TO HIM. WE SHALL SEE WHETHER ANYTHING  
COMES OF IT. KENYAN REPORTED MUCH TALK OF IMPERIALISM  
BY MENGITU, BUT NO OTHER MENTION OF USG, AND NO MENTION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 01796 260711Z

AT ALL OF CIA.  
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES, SECURITY CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS01796  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770104-1010  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaaqke.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 0e063ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2987789  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MENGISTU CONVOKES AFRICAN DIPLOMATS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, ASEC, ET, XA, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0e063ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009